



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JUDGE SENTENCES CONVICTED FELON
FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland, Texas, 50-year-old Bobby Gene Gracy was sentenced to 210 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In sentencing Gracy, United States District Judge Robert Junnell found that Gracy was an armed career criminal thus, Gracy was not eligible for a prison sentence of less than 15 years.

On July 30, 2003, Gracy pawned a Smith and Wesson .32 caliber revolver and a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver which he had stolen earlier in the day from an Odessa residence. On August 12, 2003, Gracy pawned a Marlin .22 caliber rifle which had been stolen from an Odessa residence three days prior. On November 19, 2003, the Schertz, Texas, resident pled guilty to the felon in possession charge.

Gracy has prior felony convictions for assault on a federal officer with a dangerous weapon, two aggravated robberies, 21 burglaries and two forgeries.

"Gracy has repeatedly demonstrated violent, criminal behavior. He has earned every day of his 210-month prison term," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Odessa is a safer community now that Gracy is behind bars and not walking the streets."

This case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Glenn Roque-Jackson.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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